countries significantly. This would also enhance people-to-people contact between India, Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia.

Export of agricultural products

3887. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a rise or fall in exports of Indian agricultural products to various world markets;

(b) the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government plan to open new markets for export of agricultural products; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The statistics of export of agricultural products (excluding tea, coffee, cotton, castor oil) from India for the last three years, tabulated below, reveal a rise in exports.

Year (April-March)	Value (Rs. Crores)
2001-2002	16773.48
2002-2003	18666.68
2002-2003 (April-January)	17310.71
2001-2002 (April-January)	14806.91

(SOURCE : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(c) and (d) The Government have initiated various measures to increase export of agricultural products in the international market. These, *inter alia*, include setting up of agri export zones to provide enhanced international market access and improved infrastructural facilities, better flow of credit, assistance for transport, handling and processing on export of selected agricultural commodities as also removal of export restrictions like requirement for registration, packaging, etc.